Foreign travel scheme

2232. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under Foreign travel scheme both currency and travellers cheques are made available to a traveller going abroad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this creates confusion in the payment of Air fare and later cancellation of Air Tickets; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to amend the system and provide entire foreign exchange in currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Eagle mission to Sri Lanka

2233. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the reasons which led to Indian Government to launch Air Force Eagle Mission o Sri Lanka;

(b) what is the total number of planes involved in the mission, category-wise; and

(c) what was the total cost of the mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Keeping in view the urgent and compelling humanitarian needs of the people of Jaffna peninsula, India decided to air drop essential supplies on June 4. Earlier, a convey of boats sent by India carrying essential supplies had been turned back by the Sri Lankan navy.

(b) and (c) Transport aircraft for supply, dropping and fighter aircraft to provide Air Defence cover were utilised in this Mission. The total cost of the Mission is still to be assessed.

Uranium smuggling from Jaduguda mines

2234. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to various press reports about uranium theft and its smuggling out of India; if so, what are the details in this regard and the total value of uranium involved;

(b) what steps have been taken to stop smuggling of uranium from Jaduguda mines in Bihar where some cases have been reported during the last three years giving details of these cases and the outcome thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against the persons involved and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the various Press Reports about Uranium theft and its smuggling out of India Periodical samples of seixed material have been sent by the Investigating Agencies to this Department for analysis and on tsting it has been found that none of the samples contained uranium.

(b) Strict security measures exist in the Uranium Mine and Mill Complex at Jaduguda under the Central Industrial Security Force starting from the main gate. Central Industrial Security Force personnel are on duty round the clock in the Plant, and Mine, and the end product area, where the product comes out from the Plant is fenced and guarded by CISF personnel in all three shifts. Therefore, there is no scope for theft of uranium from Jaduguda.

(c) Does not arise.

Investigation in illegal deposits in Swiss banks

2235. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the recent judgement of the Supreme Court of Switzerland regarding relaxation of its strict bank secrecy laws to allow investigators to look into the wealth of the deposed President, Mr. Ferdinand Marcos, believed to be kept in the Swedish banks; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to seek similar permission from the Courts in the Switzerland to investigate into huge illegal deposits by certain Indians in the Swiss banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) The Swiss Federal Law known as Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (IMAC) provides for rendering of mutual assistance in criminal matters where acts with respect to which assistance is sought satisfy the test of dual criminality and the State seeking assistance guarantees reciprocity to Swiss authorities. If the above conditions are satisfied, Swiss authorities would entertain requests for assistance in criminal matters under the provisions of IMAC and suitable proceedings could be initiated in Swiss courts for obtaining the requisite information from the concerned banks. The Swiss authorities processed the case of the deposed President of Philippines, Mr. Marcos, as a special case.

Government is initiating steps to enter into a treaty for mutual assistance in criminal matters with Swiss authorities, and pending conclusion of such a treaty|agreement entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Swiss authorities for assistance in specific cases of Indian having accounts in Swiss banks with funds obtained illegally.

Premature retirement of Director-General of ordnance factories

2236. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of ordnance factories, Shri J. C. Marwah, who was incharge of 36 major ordnance factories, had to quite on premature retirement as he had pointed out some flaws in the Bofore Project Report regarding metal content of the guns and was not prepared to accept the project report as it was;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what were the flaws pointed out by him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir. Shri J. C. Marwaha, former Director General of Ordnance Factories|Chairman, Ordnance Factory Board, was due to superannuate on 30.11.1987. He retired voluntarily w.e.f. 30.6:87 in terms of rule 48 CCS (Pension) Rules. In response to newspaper reports alleging differences of opinion between him and the Government on the Bofors deal, Shri Marwaha has forcefully denied of any difference on Bofors deal or for that purpose on any other issue with the Ministry. According to him the newspaper reports are mischieveous and definitely without any basis.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.